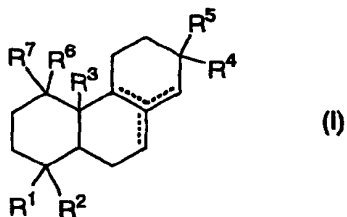


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A potassium channel opener comprising a compound (e.g., pimaric acid) represented by the formula [I]:



5

wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde, or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; and all of three bonds represented by ---- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

15

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an effective ingredient.